

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 56

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

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COMSIXTHFLT

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FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AUG.11: RECENT CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS

NOW DEFUNCT; MILITARY ACTIVITY ESPECIALLY AT TELL ZAATAR AND

IN METN; LEBANESE-LEBANESE CONTACTS

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REF: BEIRUT 6876

1. SUMMARY: PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN AGREEMENT SEEMS TO BE GOING WAY OF ARAB LEAGUE CEASEFIRE EFFORTS, AS SYRIANS INSIST ON PARTICIPATION OF NON-JUNBLATTI LEBANESE LEFTISTS IN CEASEFIRE COMMITTEE. AL DEPUTY CONTINUES ROUNDS, BUT NO TALK OF NEW CEASEFIRE EFFORTS FOR NOW. SYRIANS PRESSURING CHRISTIANS TO ALLOW RETURN OF SHIITE INHABITANTS TO NABAA. HEAVY CHRISTIAN "FINAL" ASSAULT ON TELL ZAATAR. CHRISTIAN MILITARY CONCENTRATIONS STILL REPORTED IN METN, BUT MILITARY ACTIVITY IN AREA IS AS YET INDECISIVE. BEIRUT CONFRONTATION LINE FIGHTING CENTERED AT GALERIE SEMAAN. IRAQIS DEFINITELY INFILTRATING INTO WEST BEIRUT. KARAME EFFORTS REACTIVATE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION MEETING SOME INITIAL SUCCESS. VARIETY OF LEBANESE-LEBANESE CONTACTS IN PROGRESS, AND ARAFAT-GEMAYEL MEETING EXPECTED. END SUMMARY.

2. END OF PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN AGREEMENT? SYRIAN EMISSARY COL. ALI MADANI CAME TO BEIRUT FROM DAMASCUS AND TOLD KFOUR LEADERS SYRIA INSISTS THAT PRO-SYRIAN LEBANESE LEFTISTS AND PRO-IMAM MUSSA SADR ELEMENTS SHOULD BE REPRESENTED IN QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE CALLED FOR BY PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN AGREEMENT. AT SAME TIME, PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES RETURNED FROM DAMASCUS AND BRIEFED ARAFAT AND JUNBLATT ON SYRIAN POSITION. AL-MUHARRIR SAYS AS RESULT THAT JUNBLATT AND NATIONAL MOVEMENT CONSIDER AGREEMENT A DEAD LETTER. PRO-PALESTINIAN AND PRO-LEFTIST PRESS CONCLUDE THAT SYRIA'S REAL INTENT CONTINUES TO BE TO CRUSH PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT AND LEBANESE "NATIONAL MOVEMENT."

3. ARAB LEAGUE ACTIVITIES. AL DEPUTY KHOLI AUG 10 ACCOMPANIED MINISTER OF ECONOMY OSSEIRAN ON CALL ON CHAMOUN, AND ALSO MET ALEXANDER GEMAYEL AND JOSEPH ABU SHARAF OF PHALANGE. BACK IN WEST BEIRUT HE SAW BOTH ARAFAT AND LT KHATIB OF LEBANESE ARAB ARMY. HE IS TO SEE PIERRE GEMAYEL AUG 11. ARAFAT AND JUNBLATT ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT HAVE AGREED TO CALL FOR NEW MEETING OF CONFIDENTIAL

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ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL ON LEBANESE SITUATION. FRANGIE RECEIVED RESPONSE TO HIS EARLIER LETTER TO MOHAMMED RIAD OF ARAB LEAGUE IN WHICH LATTER SUGGESTS TO FRANGIE THAT HE CONSULT FIRST WITH KHOLI ABOUT ALLEGED PROBLEMS CONCERNING ARAB LEAGUE TROOPS.

4. RETURN TO NABAA? SYRIAN COLONEL MADANI ALSO TOLD KFOUR LEADERS SYRIA FAVORS STEPS TO PERMIT

NABAA REFUGEES TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. AN-NAHAY SAYS "SO AS TO REMAIN A MODEL OF LEBANESE COEXISTENCE." SPECULATION IS THAT KFOUR FRONT WILL ISSUE INVITATION WITHIN NEXT DAY OR TWO TO NABAAITES TO RETURN HOME.

5. MILITARY SITUATION. CHRISTIAN ASSAULT ON TELL ZAATAR. CHRISTIAN FORCES LAUNCHED HEAVY COMBINED ARMS ATTACK ON TELL ZAATAR AUG 10. ATTACK LED BY CHAMOUNIST "TIGERS," AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT PHALANGISTS DID NOT WANT TO START ATTACK UNTIL AUG 11. VOICE OF PALESTINE ADMITS THAT CHRISTIANS OVERRAN PFLP HEAD-QUARTERS DURING DAY BUT CLAIMS RETAKEN IN COUNTERATTACK. LATE REPORT AUG. 11 FROM CHRISTIAN SOURCE CLAIMS CHRISTIANS HAVE TAKEN PDFLP HEADQUARTERS IN CAMP. CHRISTIANS CLAIM THAT SAIQA LT. BILAL HASSAN AND 100 PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS HAVE SURRENDERED. ICRC HAS NO EVACUATION PLANS FOR NOW.

6. PALESTINAINS/LEFTISTS SAY CHRISTIANS HAVE LAUNCHED HEAVY ATTACKS IN AREA OF ARAYA, ALEY AND KEYFOUN. THERE WAS HEAVY FIGHTING ALONG LINE OF ALEY-KAHALE-CHOUIT-ARAYA-DAHR EL-WAHCH-BDEDOUN-BLEYBEL-SOUK EL-GHARB-AYTATE, BUT NO CHANGE IN POSITIONS HELD. CONCENTRATIONS OF CHRISTIAN TROOPS AND ARMOR STILL REPORTED AROUND BAABDA, HADATH AND HAZMIEH. VERY HEAVY SHELLING IN AREA OF MTEIN AND AINTOURA.

7. OTHER AREAS. BEIRUT PORT AREA RELATIVELY QUIET, BUT HEAVY ATTACKS BY FIRE ALONG OTHER BEIRUT
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TRADITIONAL CONFRONTATION LINES, AND GROUND FIGHTING IN AREA OF GALERIE SEMAAN. WE HAVE CONFIRMED PRESENCE OF IRAQI TROOPS IN SOUTHERN AREA OF WEST BEIRUT, ESPECIALLY AT SANDS PRISON AND CITE SPORTIVE. WE HAVE REPORTS OF SOME MILITARY ACTIVITY IN BTT

VALLEY
AGAINST SYRIANS ON PART OF SHIITES NOT LOYAL TO IMAM MUSA SADR, IN REPRISAL FOR EXPULSIONS FROM NABAA.

8. REESTABLISHMENT OF GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION. PRIMIN KARAME HELD ANOTHER MEETING OF LEADING CIVIL SERVANTS AUG 10 TO DISCUSS REACTIVATION OF ADMINISTRATION. HOUSING COMMISSION IN WEST BEIRUT HAS MADE ANNOUNCEMENT CALLING UPON ALL THOSE WHO

HAVE TAKEN OVER APARTMENTS IN CITY WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORIZATION TO REGISTER THEMSELVES BY AUG 17, AFTER WHICH THEY WILL BE EXPELLED BY POPULAR SECURITY FORCES. GOVERNOR LAHOUD OF BEKAA AND GOVERNOR FAYYAD OF SOUTH LEBANON SAY THEY HAVE REACTIVATED THEIR ADMINISTRATIONS. LT. KHATIB OF LAA SAYS HE IS NOT OPPOSED TO REACTIVATION OF ADMINISTRATION, AND LAA MAJOR BOUTARI IN SOUTH LEBANON SAYS HE OPPOSES EFFORTS BY LEFTIST ALLIANCE (JUNBLATT) TO ESTABLISH RIVAL LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS.

9. LEBANESE POLITICAL VOICES. PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS TOLD MINISTER OF ECONOMY OSSEIRAN HE DEFINITELY WILL ASSUME OFFICE SEPT. 23. SAEB SALAM MAY CALL ON SARKIS IN NEXT FEW DAYS. CHAFIC WAZZAN SAYS ISLAMIC GROUP AND NATIONAL MOVEMENT SHARE COMMON OBJECTIVES. AS-SAFIR SAYS ISLAMIC GROUP LEADERS AND KFOUR FRONT LEADERS CHAMOUN AND PIERRE GEMAYEL WILL MEET NEXT WEEK UNDER AUSPICES OF GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLITAN IN ASHRAFIYA. SAEB SALAM SAYS ARAFAT AND PIERRE GEMAYEL WILL MEET IN NEXT FEW DAYS. GEMAYEL AND CHAMOUN MET AUG. 10, SUPPOSEDLY TO DISCUSS STEPS TO UNIFY THEIR TWO PARTIES AND MILITIA.

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